

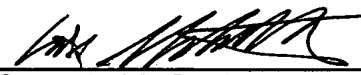
a<sup>2</sup>  
15. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the foil obtained in the traditional manner is further processed according to an embossing and/or laminating process, prior to treatment with electron beams.

a<sup>3</sup>  
16. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein the electron beam treated foil has a thickness of approximately 0.4 to 1.4 mm.

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to substantive examination of the application. The subject amendments are created to place the application in accord with traditional U.S. practice.

Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **EXPRESS MAIL** in an envelope numbered **EL 852783322 US** addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 9, 2001.

By:   
Geedeen B. George

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